

Vickers, Inc.

Omaha, Nebraska**January 2002**

Upcoming Indoor Air Sampling Activities in Still Meadows

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will conduct indoor air sampling at six homes of the Still Meadows neighborhood in Omaha, Nebraska, February 6 through 8, 2002. Indoor air sampling for volatile organic compounds (VOCS) will be conducted in six homes, which have sump pumps and/or history of water leaks in basements and are located above the known extent of VOCs in groundwater.

EPA will look for seven VOCs in the upcoming indoor air sampling:

- 1,1-dichloroethylene (DCE),
- chloroform
- trichloroethylene (TCE),
- vinyl chloride,
- 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA)
- Methylene chloride, and
- tetrachloroethylene

The Still Meadows neighborhood is located in northwest Omaha and is east of the Vickers facility. Vickers is located at 6600 North 72nd Street, approximately two miles south of Interstate 680.

Background

October 2001

EPA, Vickers, and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality held an informal public meeting about the soil vapor investigation results and proposed cleanup plan for ground water and soil contamination at and around the Vickers facility. During the public meeting, EPA learned and later confirmed that some homes in the Still Meadows neighborhood contain sumps pumps and/or history of water leaks in basements. Based on this new information, it is appropriate to conduct indoor air sampling at these homes to further investigate the possibility of another migration route for soil vapor and confirm previous results. Therefore, indoor air sampling for seven VOCs in six homes with sump pumps and/or history of water leaks in basements will be conducted.

Vickers manufactured hydraulic motors and pumps. Manufacturing processes included metal fabrications, milling, finishing, and associated metal cleaning and degreasing operations. Originally, the facility constructed and operated a liquid waste collection system, which consisted of underground piping and underground storage tanks (USTs). The liquid waste collection system's operations included: piping from manufacturing areas to a concrete junction tank (UST 5);

To Get More Information:

EPA and Vickers will regularly update the Omaha community about the progress and outcome of sampling activities. Public questions and comments are welcomed.

If you have questions or comments, please contact the following representatives:

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To View Documents:

Copies of work plans and other documents are available for public review at the following locations:
Abrahams Branch Library
5111 N. 90th Street
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transporting liquid wastes from the north portion of the manufacturing area through a concrete settling tank (UST 6) to the concrete junction tank; collecting liquid wastes in four concrete waste collection tanks (USTs 1, 2, 3, and 4) prior to transporting wastes off-site for recycling, reuses, and disposal.

Results of sludge, soil, and ground water sampling at the former liquid waste collection system indicated the presence of VOCs in soil and ground water. The contaminants are TCE, TCA, and DCE. Closure activities for the liquid waste collection system occurred in December 1992 and January 1993. The six USTs of the liquid waste collection system were emptied, cleaned, and filled with concrete slurry. Following closure activities of the liquid waste collection system, Vickers investigated the nature and extent of VOCs in soil, soil gas, and groundwater. The groundwater contamination extends from the Vickers facility to approximately the intersection of Redick Avenue and 76th Street in the Still Meadows neighborhood. The groundwater contamination is under approximately 14 homes. All drinking water in the Still Meadows neighborhood and surrounding area is provided by the city of Omaha and is not affected.

Investigation and cleanup activities started in 1991, including short-term cleanup actions to address TCE, TCA, and DCE affecting groundwater and soil. The operation of a soil vapor and groundwater extraction and treatment system began in 1996 and continues to operate today.

Sampling Process

Indoor air sampling involves placing a small canister in the lowest living space in the home. The canister is retrieved 24 hours later and sent to an EPA lab for analysis. Three indoor air samples will be conducted at homes with sump pumps. Two indoor air samples will be collected at homes that do not contain sump pumps. Also, outdoor air samples will be collected to establish outdoor air concentrations of the VOCs.

The compounds to be tested in this indoor air sampling can be found in everyday household items, such as:

- Paints or paint thinners
- Cleaning products
- Hobby supplies
- Glues and furniture compounds
- Dry cleaned clothes
- Insecticides/Pesticides
- Home office supplies

Residents will be surveyed on the use and storage of such products in their homes before sampling to determine whether any VOCs that may be detected are from household sources or other sources.

RCRA Program

The sampling will be addressed under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). RCRA, an amendment to the Solid Waste Disposal Act, was established in 1976 to address safe handling and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous waste generated nationwide and to ensure prevention of future releases. Later, RCRA was expanded to address releases of hazardous waste through cleanup of wastes released from RCRA facilities.

For More Information

If you have questions about this fact sheet or would like additional information, please contact:

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